

R7-2-608 Early Childhood Teaching Certificates¹

- A. By July 1, 2012 ~~2009~~, either a provisional or a standard early childhood education certificate shall be required for individuals teaching in public school early childhood education programs, except as provided in R7-2-610 or in R7-2-613(L). For individuals teaching in grades 1 - 3, this certificate is optional.
- B. For the purposes of this rule, public school early childhood education programs are defined as education programs provided by local education agencies, including their sub-grantees and contracted providers, for children birth through age 8 for the purpose of providing academically and developmentally appropriate learning opportunities that are standards-based with defined curriculum and comprehensive in content to include all appropriate developmental and academic areas as defined by the Arizona Early Childhood Education Standards or the Arizona K-12 Academic Standards approved by the Board. The Arizona Early Childhood Education Standards: Arizona Department of Education, 1535 West Jefferson, Phoenix, AZ 85007, were adopted by the State Board of Education in June 2003 and the Arizona K-12 Academic Standards: Arizona Department of Education, 1535 West Jefferson, Phoenix, AZ 85007, were adopted by the State Board of Education as follows: Arts, April 1997; Comprehensive Health/PE, April 1997; Foreign and Native Language, April 1997; Mathematics, March 2003; Reading, March 2003; Science, May 2004; Social Studies, March 2000; Technology, September 2000; Workplace Skills, March 1997; and Writing, June 2004, are incorporated by reference and are on file with the Arizona Department of Education. This incorporation by reference contains no further editions or amendments. Copies of the incorporated material are available for review at Arizona Department of Education, 1535 West Jefferson, Phoenix, AZ 85007 or on the Arizona Department of Education web site at www.ade.az.gov/standards. Public school early childhood education programs include, but are not limited to, half day and full day kindergarten programs, Early Childhood Block Grant programs pursuant to A.R.S. § 15-1251, Family Literacy Programs for preschool children pursuant to A.R.S. § 15-191.01, and public school-administered early childhood education programs funded in whole or part with federal funds, such as the Head Start or Even Start programs, provided nothing in these rules conflicts with the terms of the federal grant. Extended day child care programs provided by local educational agencies are not considered early childhood education programs for purposes of this rule unless the program meets the definition of a public school early childhood education program set forth above.
- C. Except as noted, all certificates are subject to the general certification provisions in R7-2-607 and the renewal requirements in R7-2-617.
- D. Provisional Early Childhood Education Certificate – birth through age eight or through grade 3
1. This certificate is valid for two years and is not renewable but may be extended as set forth in R7-2-606(H) or (I).
 2. The requirements are:
 - a. A Bachelor's degree; and
 - b. One of the following:
 - i. Completion of a teacher preparation program in early childhood education from an accredited institution or a teacher preparation program approved by the Board; or
 - ii. Early childhood education coursework and practicum experience which teaches the knowledge and skills described in R7-2-602 and includes both of the following:
 - (1) 37 semester hours of early childhood education courses to include all of the following areas of study:
 - (a) foundations of early childhood education;
 - (b) child guidance and classroom management;

¹ This will remove the Early Childhood Teaching Certificates from R7-2-612 Other Teaching Certificates and place them before the current R7-2-608 Elementary Teaching Certificates

- (c) characteristics and quality practices for typical and atypical behaviors of young children;
 - (d) child growth and development, including health, safety and nutrition;
 - (e) child, family, cultural and community relationships;
 - (f) developmentally appropriate instructional methodologies for teaching language, math, science, social studies and the arts;
 - (g) early language and literacy development;
 - (h) assessing, monitoring and reporting progress of young children; and
 - (2) A minimum of 8 semester hours of practicum, including:
 - (a) A minimum of 4 semester hours in supervised field experience, practicum, internship or student teaching setting serving children birth - preschool. One year of full-time verified teaching experience with children in birth - preschool may substitute for this student teaching experience. This verification may come from a school-based education program or center-based program licensed by the Department of Health Services or regulated by tribal or military authorities; and
 - (b) A minimum of 4 semester hours in a supervised student teaching setting serving children in kindergarten - grade 3. One year of full-time verified teaching experience with children in kindergarten - grade 3 in an accredited school may substitute for this student teaching experience; or
 - iii. A valid early childhood education certificate from another state.
 - c. A valid Fingerprint Clearance Card issued by Arizona DPS; and
 - d. A passing score on the professional knowledge portion of the Arizona Teacher Proficiency Assessment once that portion of the AEPA is adopted by the Board; and
 - e. A passing score on the early childhood subject knowledge portion of the Arizona Educator Proficiency Assessment once that portion of the AEPA is adopted by the Board.
- E. Standard Early Childhood Education Certificate - birth through age eight_or through Grade 3
1. **By July 1, 2012 2009**, either a provisional or a standard early childhood education certificate shall be required for individuals teaching in public school early childhood education programs, except as provided in R7-2-610 or in R7-2-613(L). For individuals teaching in grades 1 - 3, this certificate is optional.
 2. This certificate is valid for six years.
 3. The requirements are:
 - a. Qualification for the Provisional Early Childhood Education Certificate; and
 - c. A valid fingerprint clearance card issued by Arizona DPS
 4. An individual may also qualify for a standard Early Childhood Education Certificate if the individual:
 - a. Holds current National Board Certification in Early Childhood; and
 - b. Holds a valid fingerprint Clearance Card issued by DPS.